



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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The State Board of Education, in partnership with the State Department of Education, Division of Professional Technical Education and Idaho Career Information System recently announced a six year, \$18 million federal grant. The GEARUP Grant is designed to better prepare students for post-secondary education and provide scholarships for students based upon financial need.

Schools with over 50 percent free and reduced lunch population that include a 7th grade are eligible to participate beginning this fall.

GEAR UP provides the following:

- \$10,000 grants to each participating school to design and carry-out program elements in a way that meets local community needs;
- Full-Time Coordinators to implement program requirements to reduce impact on existing school staff;
- State-developed materials, curriculum, DVDs and website;
- Computers for eligible students at the end of the 8th grade (100% federal funding) to address the technology barrier for low-income students (200 students will receive computers each year of the program);
- 4 year renewable scholarships of \$4,000/ year (\$16,000 maximum) for over 600 students per year prioritized based upon financial need and participation in the GEAR UP program;
- Funding for college visits (including transportation funding);
- Post-secondary liaison;
- Funding for GEAR UP students to take the ACT.

GEAR UP schools must provide:

- An advisory team that will work with the regional coordinator to address local needs in implementing GEAR UP; to determine how \$10,000 is spent and to attend 2 state conferences per year;
- 7th grade cohort of students to participate;
- Information regarding GEAR UP students to the SDE for evaluation purposes.

There is no direct cost to schools that wish to participate. The GEAR UP grant was designed to minimize or eliminate cost to participating schools by providing staff and

funding to accomplish program goals. There is an indirect cost to schools for team members to spend time meeting and attending the two state conferences.

The Board has advertised for two state positions: the director and a marketing coordinator. The Director position is open and listed on the Board's website at <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov>.

Once a director is hired, eligible schools and districts will be contacted with more information. A list of eligible schools as of 2005 free and reduced numbers is also available on the Board's website. If the free and reduced population of your school has gone up since then, the school will be eligible.

In the interim before the director is hired, if you should have questions on this program, please contact me at 332-1577 or christine.ivie@osbe.idaho.gov.

Thank you,

Christine Ivie
Chief Elementary and Secondary Officer
State Board of Education

CC: Idaho School Districts
Idaho Middle School and High School Principals
Idaho State Department of Education
Career Information Systems
Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education
State Board Members